

Wife's Father Testifies For Defense in Bugging

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LACONIA, N.H., Feb. 2 — The father of Mae Labonte Hamberger, who with her husband is suing for \$125,000 damages in an invasion-of-privacy suit, appeared today as a witness for the defendant.

Asked if he believed Clifford C. Eastman had placed a listening device near the bedroom in the house rented by the Hambergers, Arthur Labonte answered:

"I don't believe it. I won't believe it. I know him too well."

Labonte, a 64-year-old dairy farmer, is a near-neighbor and old friend of Eastman, who operates a poultry farm in nearby Gilford. It was Labonte who arranged for his daughter and her husband, Carl, to rent the Eastman tenant cottage.

While Labonte was on the stand, his daughter broke into tears. She did not return to the room after the court took a short recess.

Under cross-examination by Peter Makris, attorney for the Hambergers, Labonte maintained that "I love my daughter." He said if he had been told earlier, he could "have straightened this thing out and we would not be in court today."

In their suit, the Hambergers contend they found a speaker-mike in the cellar near the hot-air register of their bedroom and the wires were connected to the Eastman home. The defense has been that the speaker was in the cellar to monitor a water pump.